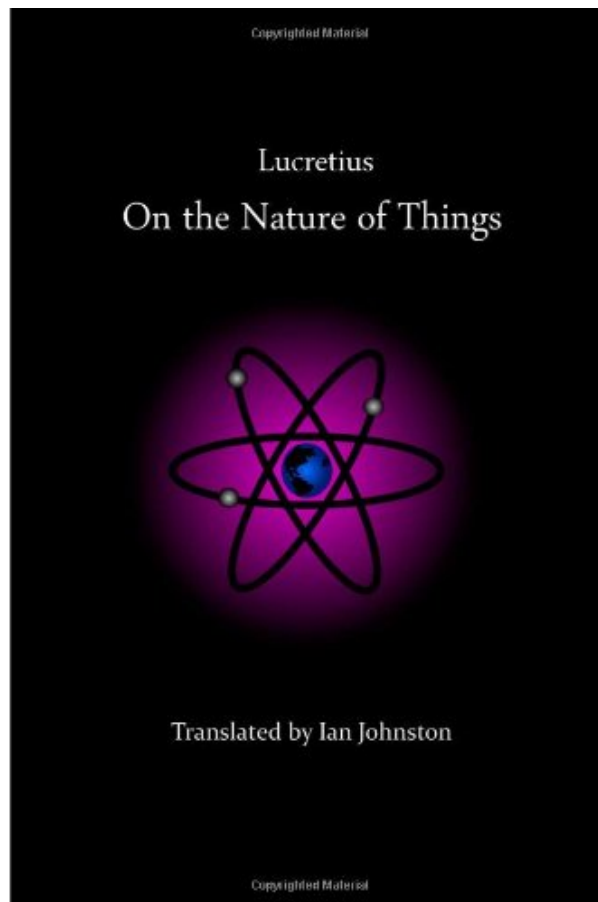


**ON THE NATURE OF THINGS BY
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Lucretius
On the Nature of Things



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Johnson's new translation of *On the Nature of Things* is a genuine pleasure to read. The philosophy - "Nothing is ever brought forth by the gods from nothing" - is clear and accessible. The poetry "What evil longing for life is so strong / that it forces us with such compulsion / to remain confused, in doubt and danger?" - is sparkling. The accompanying notes are helpful without being smothering. The book is warmly recommended. --Andrew Irvine, Professor of Philosophy, University of British Columbia

About the Author

Ian Johnston was born in Valparaiso, Chile, and educated in Canada and England. He has a BSc from McGill in Geology and Chemistry, a BA from Bristol in English and Greek, and an MA from Toronto in English. For many years he taught as a college and university-college instructor in British Columbia teaching English, Classics and Liberal Studies. He is the author of *The Ironies of War: An Introduction to Homer's Iliad*. His translation of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* have recently been published in both book and audiobook form. He is now retired and living in Nanaimo, British Columbia.

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On the Nature of Things by Titus Lucretius Carus (written around 60 BC) has for centuries been one of the most popular and influential works from our classical past. The poem is a long, impassioned plea for a materialistic understanding of the universe and of human life, without reference to divine creativity or benevolence or to a future life. Only such a view, Lucretius claims, can liberate human beings from religious superstitions, irrational fears, and false ambitions and thus enable us to live successfully. Long celebrated as the greatest expression of faith in Epicurean philosophy, the poem has exercised a decisive influence on the development of Western scientific thought since the Renaissance and is a vitally important part of our humanist traditions. Ian Johnston's new poetic translation brings out the full emotional range of this great work and captures the restless and intense urgency of the original text. The English is an accurate rendition of Lucretius in a fluent modern idiom, so that it makes this important vision of the world accessible to the modern reader. The translation includes notes to assist the reader who is encountering Lucretius for the first time.

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Most helpful customer reviews

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

On the Nature of Things by Lucretius

By Ted Frederick

This is superb modern translation of this work. If you attempt to read the version which appears in the Great

Book of the Western World, you will truly appreciate this translation. Lucretius was an atomist, i.e., he theorized that all things were made from tiny particles separated by great spaces, a fact which was not proven until the 20th century some 2,000 plus years later. If you like philosophy in particular, you will love reading Lucretius. BTW "The Swerve" is the history of the discovery of Lucretius manuscript.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

A must read

By Amazon Customer

In this era the tendency is to believe 2100 years ago poetry and philosophy of life were crude and filled with ignorance. Wrong. The insight Lucretius brings to humanity in this poetic form is powerful and insightful as one reflects upon time and place. Lucretius not only sees with his eyes but listens with his eyes to nature, humanity, and how those forces converge upon each other. As one not educated in poetry it took time to get the rhythm of the poetry and to learn and understand language and usage. That is part of the learning processing and look across this vast vista of time to see that maybe Lucretius invented the idea for Lego's and plus more.

I appreciated the translators footnotes in the ebook format.

s

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EH

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Brilliant and Eternally Relevant

By T. Andrew

A brilliant work - in fact a revelation - that was centuries ahead of its time! By intuitive observation of nature Lucretius was able to deduce the existence of atoms that, in varying combinations, comprise all matter. In doing so he urged his fellow man to relish the empirical nature of things rather than fearing non-existent Gods who, in the vacuum of real knowledge, dominated human emotions. As relevant today as it was in its time, with a poetic touch that keeps the reader as enchanted as well as illuminated.

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